

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 17685 01 OF 02 030700Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-11 IO-13 ACDA-12 HA-05 /108 W

-----065757 030712Z /11

R 030650Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2561

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 17685

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CH, JA, UR

SUBJECT: JAPANESE PERSPECTIVE ON RECENT CHINESE
DEVELOPMENTS

1. SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO A JAPANESE EMBASSY OFFICER (PROTECT THROUGHOUT), THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT BELIEVES IT LIKELY THAT THE MAY 9, 1978 INCIDENT ON THE SINO-SOVIET BORDER WAS A DELIBERATE SOVIET PROVOCATION. HERE IN PARIS THE SOVIET EMBASSY ASKED THE JAPANESE TO FOLLOW THEIR EXAMPLE BY URGING THE FRENCH NOT TO SELL MODERN ARMS TO CHINA. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE JAPANESE HERE CONSIDER THE EXODUS OF ETHNIC CHINESE FROM VIETNAM THE RESULT OF THE NEW VIETNAMESE ECONOMIC PROGRAM RATHER THAN AN ANTI-CHINESE RACIAL CAMPAIGN. END SUMMARY

2. EMBOFF HAD TOUR D'HORIZON WITH NEWLY ARRIVED JAPANESE EMBASSY CHINA EXPERT AT LATTER'S INITIATIVE, AND DISCUSSION FOCUSED ON MAY 9 SINO-SOVIET BORDER INCIDENT. SOURCE BROUGHT ALONG TOKYO CABLE OFFERING
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 17685 01 OF 02 030700Z

JAPANESE ANALYSIS. GIST IS THAT JAPANESE, WHILE NOT YET CERTAIN THAT SOVIET INCURSION INTO CHINA WAS ACCIDENTAL, DO TEND TO FEEL THAT THIS WAS A DELIBERATE SOVIET PROVOCATION TESTING NEW CHINESE LEADERSHIP. SOME JAPANESE ANALYSTS ARE STRUCK BY FACT THAT SOVIET BORDER NEGOTIATOR LEONID ILYICHEV WAS IN PAKING AT TIME OF SOVIET INCURSION, WHICH MADE IT EASIER FOR

THE SOVIETS TO ASSESS THE CHINESE REACTION. SOURCE SAID TOKYO ALSO FEELS THAT THE BORDER INCURSION MAY HAVE BEEN AN EFFORT TO ASSIST VIETNAM; THE THEORY BEING THAT SOVIETS CREATED A PROBLEM ON CHINA'S NORTHERN BORDER AT A TIME WHEN VIOLENT INCIDENTS WERE INCREASING BETWEEN CHINA AND VIETNAM ON CHINA'S SOUTHERN BORDER. TOKYO REPORTEDLY ALSO RELATES SOVIET INCURSION TO WAR BETWEEN KAMPUSHEA AND VIETM, AS SOVIET SUPPORT FOR THE LATTER AND A WARNING TO THE CHINESE TO CAREFULLY WEIGH HOW FAR THEY WILL GO IN SUPPORT OF KAMPUCHEA.

3. THE ABOVE NOTWITHSTANDING, THE JAPANESE HAVE ALSO NOT YET COMPLETELY DISCOUNTED THE POSSIBILITY THAT THIS WAS AN ACCIDENTAL INCURSION. TOKYO HOWEVER DOES NOT CONSIDER IT LIKELY THAT SOVIETS COULD HAVE MADE SUCH A GROSS ERROR IN AN AREA OF EXTREME SENSITIVITY FOR BOTH CHINA AND THE SOVIET UNION.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 17685 02 OF 02 030658Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 IO-13 ACDA-12 HA-05 /108 W
-----065743 030711Z /11

R 030650Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2562
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 17685

4. ON FRENCH-CHINESE RELTIONS. SOURCE SAID THAT A SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICER IN PARIS RECENTLY CALLED ON JAPANESE HERE TO REQUEST THAT JAPAN DISCOURAGE FRENCH

FROM SELLING MODERN ARMS TO CHINA. SOVIETS ARGUED THAT FRENCH SALES OF MODERN WEAPONS TO CHINA PRESENTS MILITARY THREAT TO JAPAN AS WELL AS SOVIET UNION. JAPANESE RESPONSE REPORTEDLY WAS THAT SUBJECT OF POSSIBLE ARMS SALES WAS BILATERAL MATTER BETWEEN FRANCE AND CHINA. JAPANESE THEREFORE WOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE THE FRENCH POSITION.

5. ON SINO-VIETNAMESE TENSIONS: SOURCE SAID THAT JAPANESE EMBASSY IN HANOI REPORTS THAT THE EXODUS FROM VIETNAM OF ETHNIC CHINESE IS THE RESULT OF A VIETNAMESE PROGRAM TO DESTROY THE ECONOMIC POWER BASE OF PRIVATE BUSINESSES IN SOUTH AND NORTH VIETNAM. SOURCE SAID THAT IN REALITY THIS MEANS THAT ALMOST EVERYONE BEING AFFECTED IS AN ETHNIC CHINESE. THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 17685 02 OF 02 030658Z

CHINESE LEAVING VIETNAM ARE FROM THE SOUTH AS

WELL AS THE NORTH. WHILE IN THEORY THEY ARE LEAVING VOLUNTARILY, THEY HAVE NO CHOICE IN FACT, SINCE THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT IS DEPRIVING THEM OF THEIR LIVELIHOOD AND OF THEIR WEALTH. THIS IS ILLUSTRATED BY THE RAPID CLOSING OF CHINESE RESTAURANTS IN HANOI AND THE RESULTING DEPARTURE OF THE CHINESE BUSINESSMEN WHO RUN THEM. HARTMAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PARIS17685
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780232-0809
Format: TEL
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780699/aaaadhkh.tel
Line Count: 147
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4c4abe92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2501423
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JAPANESE PERSPECTIVE ON RECENT CHINESE DEVELOPMENTS
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, PEPR, CH, JA, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4c4abe92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014